

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7337
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USEEC

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TAGS: EFIN, EAID, XL
SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN GROUP MEETING: EC PREPARATIONS FOR
JUNE 19 MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 148142, (B) STATE 147827

1. MISSION OFFICER HAS CONTACTED EC COMMISSION DEVELOP-
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MENT OFFICIALS REGARDING COMMUNITY POSITION FOR FORTH-
COMING SESSION OF CARIBBEAN GROUP FOR COOPERATION AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. SINCE EC, AS SUCH, WAS NOT
REPRESENTED AT JUNE 1 DONORS MEETING IN WASHINGTON, THESE
OFFICIALS APPRECIATED REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ON
DONOR SIDE PROVIDED BY MISSION OFFICER ON BASIS OF REFTELS.

2. EC COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE TO SUBJECT MEETING WILL BE YVES ROLAND-GOSSELIN, CARIBBEAN AFFAIRS OFFICER IN COMMISSION'S DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT. HE WILL BE ASSISTED BY CORRADO PIRZIO-BIROLI OF COMMISSION'S WASHINGTON OFFICE. IN ADDITION, EC DELEGATES STATIONED IN BARBADOS, GUYANA, AND JAMAICA ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN RELEVANT WORKING GROUP SESSIONS SCHEDULED FOR WEEK OF JUNE 19.

3. WE UNDERSTAND EC VIEW OF OVERALL CARIBBEAN GROUP EFFORT IS FAVORABLE, PROVIDED THAT IT DOES NOT RESULT IN CREATING YET ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTION (INCLUDING FULL PANOPLY OF BUREAUCRATS AND ADMINISTRATRS) WHICH WOULD IMPEDE OR SLOW DOWN EXISTING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION EFFORTS IN THE AREA. REGARDING A POTENTIAL COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION TO PROPOSED CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (CDF), WE ARE TOLD THAT EC CANNOT RESHUFFLE MONIES PRESENTLY EARMARKED UNDER LOME CONVENTION'S EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR PROJECTS IN INDIVIDUAL ACP COUNTRIES AND/OR REGION AS A WHOLE. HOWEVER, IN CONNECTION WITH REPLENISHMENT OF 5TH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (WHICH MAY CONTAIN AS MUCH AS \$300 MILLION FOR CARIBBEAN, AVAILABLE OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING IN 1980), THE EC WOULD, IN PRINCIPLE, BE IN A POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CDF. COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO MENTION A SPECIFIC FIGURE IN THIS CONTEXT. IN ADDITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO A "POTENTIAL" CONTRIBUTION UNDER THE 5TH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND, COMMISSION OFFICIALS INDICATE THEY PLAN TO HIGHLIGHT IN PLENARY MEETING COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED UNDER LOME CONVENTION TO CARIBBEAN ACP'S (THROUGH MECHANISMS SUCH AS STABEX AND THE CONVENTION'S PROTOCOLS CONCERNING RUM AND SUGAR) AS EXAMPLES OF NON-TRADITIONAL AID SUBSTANTIALLY BENEFITING CARIBBEAN EXPORTERS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MISSION OFFICER'S QUERY REGARDING TRINIDAD'S ROLE IN CARIBBEAN GROUP (PARA 3, REF A), COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAY THEY ARE ALSO UNCLEAR AS TO TRINIDAD'S INTENTIONS AT THIS TIME. HOWEVER, EC COMMISSION DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT, MAURICE FOLEY, PLANS TO BE IN PORT OF SPAIN JUNE 24-30 (TO ATTEND AN EC/ ACP SEMINAR ON REGIONAL COOPERATION UNDER LOME CONVENTION), AND THERE WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FOLEY AND OTHER COMMISSION OFFICIALS TO RAISE AT A HIGH LEVEL THE POSSIBILITY OF A MORE COOPERATIVE TRINIDAD ROLE IN CARIBBEAN GROUP'S ACTIVITIES.

5. CONCERNING INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY AND LEVELS OF ACTIVITY IN THE REGION BY CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

(CDB), EC OFFICIALS INDICATE THEY "WOULD NOT OPPOSE"
BROADENING OF CDB'S ROLE IN REGIONAL PROJECTS TO INCLUDE
HAITI AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. HINTON

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